

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISFAHA 00027 050749Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /068 W  
-----050754Z 063443 /14

R 050700Z APR 77  
FM AMCONSUL ISFAHAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 80  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS ISFAHAN 0027

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS PINT IR  
SUBJ: TRIAL OF ISFAHAN RELIGIOUS ASSASSINS

REF: ISFAHAN 0021, ISFAHAN 0014

1. VERDICT IN TRIAL OF 22 RELIGIOUS ASSASSINS WAS FINALLY ANNOUNCED THURSDAY AFTERNOON MARCH 31 FOLLOWING A 24 HOUR DELAY CAUSED BY MARATHON 75 HOUR DELIBERATIONS OF 5 JUDGE PANEL. 6 DEFENDANTS MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATIONS, INCLUDING LEADER OF GROUP, WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH WHILE 8 OTHERS RECEIVED JAIL SENTENCES RANGING FROM 10 MONTHS TO 15 YEARS. 8 ASSOCIATES OF ASSASSINS WERE EXONERATED OF COMPLICITY IN MURDERS. ALL 14 WHO WERE CONVICTED HAVE INDICATED INTENTION TO APPEAL VERDICT.

2. TRIAL HEARINGS CONCLUDED MORNING MARCH 29 AND 5 JUDGE PANEL BEGAN DELIBERATIONS SAME AFTERNOON. VERDICT WAS EXPECTED AFTERNOON MARCH 30 AND SMALL, ORDERLY CROWD GATHERED OUTSIDE COURT TO AWAIT ANNOUNCEMENT. DUE DELAY, CROWD HAD DISPERSED LONG BEFORE VERDICT ANNOUNCED MARCH 31. LEGAL SOURCE ATTRIBUTES DELAY TO CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION WHETHER DEATH PENALTY COULD BE APPLIED TO LEADER OF ASSASSINATION GROUP, SEYED MAHDI HASHEMI, WHO PLANNED  
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AND ORDERED MURDERS BUT WHO WAS NOT PRESENT AT ACTUAL KILLINGS.

3. LOCAL REACTION HAS BEEN SCANT, PERHAPS DUE TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT AT BEGINNING OF 3 DAY SZDAH BEDAR WEEKEND. SO FAR, REACTIONS ARE GENERALLY FAVORABLE, RECOGNIZING MURDER MUST BE PUNISHED AND AGREEING SENTENCE IS JUST AVENGEMENT OF

SHAMSABADI AND GHANBAR ALI MURDERS, WHILE SHOWING LENIENCY TO THOSE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

4. SENTENCES:

A. DEATH-SEYED MEHDI HASHEMI(GROUP LEADER, ABBAS ALI RAHIMI, ASSADOLLAH SHAFIZADEH, HOSSEIN MORADI, MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN JAAFARZADEH, AMIR GHOLI HAMZEZHADAHEH;

B. PRISON: 15 YEARS-MAHMOUD IMANIAN; 8 YEARS-MOHAMMAD ESMAIL EBRAHIMI, AHMAD SHAFIZADEH, RAMEZAN JAMALI, HASSAN ALI SHAFIZADEH, NASSER TAHERI, SHAABAN JAMALI; 10 MONTHS - AHMAD GHADDERIJANI.

EXONERATED WERE: SHAABAN SHAFIZADEH, HAIDAR SHAFIZADEH, NASROLLAH SHAFIZADEH, YADOLLAH SHAFIZADEH, GHORBAN ALI HAMZEZHADAHEH, RAHMATOLLAH TAHRI, MOHAMMAD ALI HOJATI, AND TAHER TAHERI. MARSHALL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER, COURT PROCEEDINGS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, TRIALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Film Number:** D770117-1143  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRIAL OF ISFAHAN RELIGIOUS ASSASSINS  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, IR  
**To:** STATE TEHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
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